

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for producing a magnetic recording medium having a nonmagnetic substrate coated with a magnetic coating material containing a ferromagnetic powder and a binder, comprising:
 - preparing a liquid A constituted by a ferromagnetic powder and a solvent;
 - preparing a solution B of a binder;
 - mixing the liquid A and the solution B together in a liquid-liquid state by applying an ultrasonic wave thereto, and thereafter subjecting the mixture to dispersion processing to obtain a magnetic coating material; and
 - coating a nonmagnetic substrate with the magnetic coating material.
2. (original): The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the ultrasonic wave is applied within one second after the liquid A and the solution B are mixed together.
3. (original): The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the liquid A is subjected to dispersion processing by applying the ultrasonic wave thereto before the liquid A and the solution B are mixed together.
4. (original): The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the ferromagnetic powder is a needle particle with a major axis length of 10 to 100 nm.

5. (original): The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the ferromagnetic powder is a plate particle with a plate diameter of 10 to 50 nm.

6. (currently amended): A method for producing a magnetic recording medium having a nonmagnetic substrate coated with a magnetic coating material containing a ferromagnetic powder and a binder, comprising:

- preparing a liquid A constituted by a ferromagnetic powder and a solvent;
- preparing a solution B of a binder;
- subjecting the liquid A to dispersion processing by applying an ultrasonic wave thereto, and thereafter mixing the liquid A and the solution B together in a liquid-liquid state to obtain a magnetic coating material; and
- coating a non-magnetic substrate with the magnetic coating material.

7. (original): The method as defined in claim 6, wherein the ferromagnetic powder is a needle particle with a major axis length of 10 to 100 nm.

8. (original): The method as defined in claim 6, wherein the ferromagnetic powder is a plate particle with a plate diameter of 10 to 50 nm.